

# **Women's Ministries Emphasis Day**

**June 14, 2008**

**“Show Me the Savior-Then I Shall See”**

**Written by Heather-Dawn Small**

**General Conference Women's Ministries**

**Produced by Department of Women's Ministries  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**



SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST  
CHURCH

General Conference  
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Dear Sisters:

You hold in your hand the 2008 Resource Packet for Women's Emphasis Day entitled "Show Me the Savior-Then I Shall See." I prepared this program myself. This year Raquel Arrais (WM Associate Director) and I decided to write the sermons for WM special days ourselves. We hope and pray that you benefit from these messages as much as we did from writing them.

The title of the packet is "Show Me the Savior-Then I Shall See." How often we go through life yearning for a glimpse of Jesus. Seeing our lives and the world as Jesus does changes our lives and our perspective on life. That is what we pray this packet will do for our sisters. Our prayer is that each one of us will see our Savior in our daily lives, and as a result He will color all we see.

In this packet we are also including a PowerPoint presentation with a seminar entitled "Distinguished Women of Service." At the General Conference on a wall opposite the Women's Ministries department there is a display of pictures of the women in this PowerPoint. Sometimes we forget those sisters who came before us, those women who charted a path for us to walk. The road was long and hard, and some of them died never seeing their dreams fulfilled, never seeing women of the church taking their places with their brothers, side by side, working to win a world for Jesus.

We are asking that you add to this PowerPoint from your own field some pictures and names whether at the division/union/conference/mission level. There are women in each of our fields who are outstanding women of God. So add their pictures and some information about each of them. ***Then we are asking that you send the new PP back to us at the General Conference.*** We would like to expand the names and pictures of the women in our display. We would like to include women from various cultures and countries.

This year we are asking that you especially remember the following divisions: East Central Africa Division (pray especially for our brothers and sisters Kenya), Euro-Africa Division, and Euro-Asia Division. The following pages contain reports of the work in these divisions, and we seek your prayers on their behalf. This information can be included in your Sabbath School program, perhaps by women dressed in the costumes of some of the countries found in these divisions.

We thank each of you for your many, many hours of service in this ministry. Know that we are aware of your sacrifice and your love for God that motivates all you do. We send you our love.

Know that we pray for you every Monday morning at the General Conference Women's Ministries department.

Blessings and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Jann Small". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director  
Women's Ministries

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## **About the Author**

Heather-Dawn Small presently holds the position of director for Women's Ministries at the General Conference of SDA. Heather-Dawn is the wife of Pastor Joseph Small and the mother of a daughter Dalonne, who is 25 years old, and a son Jerard, who is 17 years old.

Prior to coming to the General Conference in 2001 she held the position of Children's and Women's Ministries Director for the Caribbean Union Conference located on the twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago for five years.

Heather-Dawn loves air travel, reading, embroidery, scrapbooking, and stamp collecting, and she enjoys ministry to women. As she travels the world she has three passions: to see more women involved in evangelism, to encourage women to be involved in ministry to others—especially young women, and to share the joy that God has given her in spite of life's many challenges. Her favorite word is "JOY" and her favorite saying is "Don't let anyone steal your joy."

## Featured Divisions

- East-Central Africa Division
- Euro-Africa Division
- Euro-Asia Division

### East-Central Africa Division

Joy Gashaija, Director of Women's Ministries

**Territory:** East Central Africa is comprised of ten countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Kenya:** The East African Union is the largest Union in the world church, and about 65 percent of the members are women. The women in this Union are very actively involved in all areas of the Ministry. Currently the country is going through serious political turmoil. There are serious tribal conflicts following the recent elections. Many people have lost their lives, homes, and property, and many have become refugees. Thousands of women and their children are greatly affected. The work of our church has been affected. The Union had organized some big training seminars to take place in Central Kenya conference and Kenya coast field. These have been cancelled. The question is whether these tribal conflicts will leave the church members united and women still at the forefront in ministry?

**Uganda:** The Women's Ministries department in Uganda has put emphasis on Evangelism and Literacy Training. Many women have improved their financial status after learning how to read and write. Currently the women in Uganda are busy organizing a Division-wide congress to take place in July 2008. It is anticipated that nearly 5000 women will attend this congress.

**Tanzania:** Women had a great Congress in Arusha that drew close to 3000 women, both Adventist and non-Adventist. At the end of the Congress more than 50 people gave their lives to Christ; these included two professional Moslem women.

In most big towns especially in areas such as Mbeya and Dares –salaam, Women Ministries is still being fought by some pastors and church members, including some women. The department is being called derogatory names and work is difficult with a lot of intimidation faced by the women leaders. Many churches in Tanzania don't allow women to preach or teach, especially in the church.

The Division Executive committee has put a task force in place to look at women's involvement in the church. We pray that the taskforce will come up with a meaningful and acceptable report.

**Ethiopia:** Women's Ministries work in Ethiopia had been very slow in past years because women lacked confidence to take up leadership roles, but currently the work has gained momentum under the leadership of Ester Anema, who works as a volunteer. The women have held a number of seminars and congresses, and a lot has been understood about the role of women. Women still shy away from leadership responsibility. We need the Women's Ministries to be provided with a budget so that Esther can work full time for the ministry.

**Eritrea:** The church in Eritrea was closed some years back. People have no freedom of worship in homes. Grass has covered some of the church buildings. Women's Ministries is the only active department in the closed church. We have had few baptisms through personal evangelism. The women visit homes, give bible studies, provide for the needy, and offer training on the critical challenges. Non-Adventists send their children to homes where worship takes place, and the women give them Bible study. The non-Adventist parents say, "The children who go to the women's teachings are well mannered." More and more parents are bringing their children to receive instructions. This is a situation of a closed church but open hearts. We need the church in Eritrea to be opened and freedom of worship granted.

**Somalia:** Women's Ministries work is limited. We need wisdom from God to penetrate this part of the world with the gospel work women.

**Djibouti:** Other religions are not allowed in this country. There is no established church leadership in Djibouti, but we have a clinic that is operated by Adventists. One of the government women officials (presidential advisor) visited ECD headquarters in Nairobi. The ECD Women's Ministries director, Joy Gashaija invited her to her office and shared with her Women's Ministries training material and the six critical challenges that face women. The woman was impressed and as a result she invited Joy Gashaija to go to Djibouti and train the Moslem women in her country.

**Rwanda:** This is a country with a history of the terrible genocide that took place in 1994. The negative marks of this genocide that claimed over a million people can be still seen in the traumatized young orphaned girls that were raped, single mothers, and older women who miraculously survived the genocide but are destined to die either from treatable diseases or hunger because they can't fend for themselves.

Women's Ministries leadership is actively involved in ministry. The women have established a center that can train some of these girls and provide them with practical skills that will enable them to be involved in small scale self help projects or even be employed. More than three thousand women have received training from the Women's Ministries center since its establishment three years ago. The center needs financial support, stable and skilled leadership, and knowledge of the Bible truth for all those who go through this Women's Center in Kanombe.

**Burundi:** Burundi is a war torn small country that has had continuous ethnic conflicts and wars over the years, thus hindering financial stability. Many of the women in the church are illiterate and so poor that they can go for months without being able to give even a coin in offering in church. This poverty, coupled with refusal of women to participate in church, has hindered the introduction of Women's Ministries programs, which would have helped in solving some of the existing challenges.

The first ever Women Ministries Congress was held last year to help women have at least a glimpse of what Women Ministries can offer for their betterment. The women in this part of the county need a lot of exposure; the few women who are educated don't want to participate in the ministry.

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** Work is very difficult, especially for the women leaders in Congo, because of the vastness of the area. The roads are poor or non-existent. The women have to ride bicycles, sometimes to very far places, if they have to minister to women through training. Sometime it takes a day or two of bicycle riding to reach the seminar place.

In rare circumstance where a plane has to be taken, it will be a cargo plane, and most of the planes are old. It is a big risk boarding a cargo plane because of lack of passenger facilities, but usually circumstance will dictate that leadership has to travel to a particular place.

**West Congo Union:** In addition to the challenges of transportation, in west Congo, although women are willing to serve in Women's Ministries activities, some elders in the church don't allow them to speak. This situation has caused some women to feel unaccepted and therefore to shy away from any responsibility in the church that requires them to speak before men.

**East Congo Union:** Women's Ministries work in East Congo is progressing very slowly; this is mainly because of poverty caused by the ever-present political wars in the country. It is very difficult to get women leaders together to even carry out advisory meeting. They have no road transport because of bad roads. The field's leadership can not afford air tickets to transport women leaders to go out to train women or even attend the advisory meeting that takes place once in five years. The Women's Ministries director just sends the women training materials, but they may not understand the material.

**North East attached territory:** Women's Ministries has embarked on literacy training for almost every woman who is interested in reading. Over three hundred women have learned how to read and write. Many of them gain confidence after literacy classes and have joined primary schools. They pay equivalent of US \$5.00 per month, but some cannot afford them so they drop out.

There is a common prayer request from all Unions, and that is for the women to find funds to be able attend the Division congress, July 23-28, 2008. The women in ECD will be very happy to know that their sisters in the whole world are praying for them. We highly appreciate this gesture of love.

## **Euro-Africa Division**

Christiane Vertallier, Director of Women's Ministries

Territory: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Holy See, Iran, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, and Western Sahara; comprising the Czecho-Slovakian, Franco-Belgian, North German, Romanian, South German, and Swiss Union Conferences, the Austrian, Bulgarian, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish Union of Churches, and the Trans-Mediterranean Territories. The membership is 175,157 as of December 2007.

**France:** Women's Ministries is very reserved, implanted in the north part of the country and begins in the south part with good hope of development.

**Belgium:** No official Women's Ministries department. An international group is working with mostly women from South America. There are weekly meetings with a group of women.

**Spain:** The main activity in 2007 was the training of women for leadership. There are two teams of specialists: medical doctors, psychologists, professors, who are involved in the Leadership training seminars around Spain. With quite an important fund from the Government through the association "Pluralismo y Convivialad" to conduct these seminars over three year, the WM department is in the process of giving high qualification to our sisters to serve the Church as disciples of Christ, to Touch a Heart and Tell the World.

**Italy:** Women are involved in preaching: a couple of women pastors and several women elders. Women leaders in local churches are running seminars on self-esteem, "Love and Prayer Save" (for parents), prayer groups, and ADRA micro projects. This year the WM department will face a struggle by breaking the silence on domestic violence through specific initiatives. The first women's ministries congress was held last September 2007, which encouraged a large number of sisters to represent the WM department in their church.

**Germany North:** Women working with the Leadership Certification training. After Romania, Germany North Union has the largest participation of non-SDA women attending meetings.

**Germany South:** One of the main concerns in 2007 was to develop and promote the Leadership Certification training program in cooperation with the ICD (Institute for Christian Service). The department offers these one-day/weekend courses in the German-speaking areas. This project makes available to women a continued education opportunity. The goal is to encourage them in many areas of life to discover and put into practice their gifts and skills.

Another point of focus is programs for the family: Family Sabbaths and the "Welcome Baby" material. This is a form of friendship evangelism particularly for young women and new mothers. Another new program is developed for multicultural retreats that promote contacts between women of different origins to understand each other better. This is a joy that the Women's Ministries participated in reclaiming 77 women. In 2008 we will have a first Singles' Congress organized by the Women's Ministries Department.

**Romania:** The women are very much involved in ministry. The meetings of the local church take place monthly and the prayer-groups weekly. Women in Romania are involved in many projects: evangelism, reclaiming former members, sharing literature, daily meals for the poor, and vegetarian cooking-classes.

**Switzerland:** Women's Ministries is experiencing a great development. Its challenge is to combine three national languages, Swiss-German, French, and Italian in two conferences with very different cultures. The work in the two Unions is exploding, a result of intensive prayer, great engagement, and successful public relations. In 2007, the Swiss-German conference, with only 2500 church members, reported 1300 meetings organized by women and 10,600 persons attended (25% of them non-SDA).

**Austria:** Women's Ministries has been active the last 11 years. Every year there are training seminars. There is a lot of small group evangelism and women are preaching more in our churches. Last year 14 people got baptised because of women's service in the church.

**Bulgaria:** More than 70% from the church's members in Bulgarian Union are women. Many of them are intelligent, talented professionals. Some of them are elders and other church's leaders. They need good training to serve and to lead other women. About one hundred women participated in Leadership Certification training Level One. Women's Ministries is planning level Two training in 2008 and is involved in a platform against violence and trafficking of women and children.

**Portugal:** More of our women assume the important roll in representing the church in its Great mission of sharing the message of Jesus' return. However, these same women are punished by separation and divorce—an increasing problem in society and consequently in the church. But the Lord has helped and by the grace of Christ they will continue making progress.

**ATMA:** Adventist Trans Mediterranean Association. Please pray for countries in the 10/40 window—a very challenging territory.

**Tunisia:** There is joy in the small group of women in Tunisia. Around 10 ladies of at least 8 different cultures are united in love for the Lord and for the others. They meet in small groups or alone and minister in several different ways. Each week they attend trainings on the theme, "To Know Oneself Better to Better Serve," to improve their skills in witnessing, Bible study, and prayer groups. They practice witnessing by visiting orphanages, hospitals and the elderly. Every lady is using her own unique, creative talents with her spirit focusing on service for the Savior.

We need your prayers for our Women's Ministries leaders, for the ministry of our sisters in local churches and all the women that come to the numerous meetings. A lot of work and energy is developed to Touch a Heart, and Tell the World, but only God can change the hearts of these persons, so that they come to Christ and enter God's kingdom at Jesus' second coming!

## **Euro-Asia Division**

Raisa A. Ostrovskaya, Director of Women's Ministries

Territory: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia (including Abkhazia), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan; comprise the Moldova, Southern, Ukrainian, and West Russian Union Conferences, the Caucasus and East Russian Union Missions, and the Belarus Conference and Far Eastern Mission. The membership is 138,617 as of December 2007.

Please pray for the ministry projects our sisters have implemented:

**Teacup Ministry** – This is a fully developed outreach program. Rather than host tea events for the women in the church, these events are planned specifically for the community. Men and women are invited to attend, and our sisters serve tea along with simple but tasty snacks. The main focus is on the church and the community becoming acquainted. Many friendships have been formed as a result, and many are being led to Christ through this ministry of friendship evangelism.

**Prison Ministry** – How can the women of our church help women who are incarcerated in a meaningful and life-changing way? Our sisters in ESD decided to host a family day at a women's prison. On this day, our sisters arranged with prison authorities to bring husbands and children to visit their mothers and wives in prison. What a day of rejoicing that was for these women to see their children after months or years of separation. Our sisters prepared meals, gifts for the children, and family games. Many tears were shed, but this was offset by much laughter and hugs of joy.

**“Get to know your community” events** – The need for people in the community to know more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church is great, and so our sisters host events at their local conference or union offices. They invite the neighbors to come and visit the office, and they display crafts and plants, have health checks and massages, vegetarian cooking, and even artwork done by the women. This has proved very popular, for many in the community were curious about what was taking place behind the walls of our church offices.

## **Show me the Savior-Then I Shall See**

### **Worship Service Outline**

#### **Call to Worship**

Psalm 34:1-3

#### **Opening Song**

SDA Hymnal #1

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

Please keep in mind the special needs of women in –

- East-Central Africa Division
- Euro-Africa Division
- Euro-Asia Division
- Your local congregation
- Women's Ministries in general.

#### **Offertory Reading**

#### **Offertory Song**

#### **Responsive Reading**

Ephesians 1:3-8

#### **Special Music**

#### **Children's Story**

#### **Sermon**

Show me the Savior-Then I shall see

#### **Closing Hymn**

SDA Hymnal #462

#### **Closing Prayer**

## Show Me the Savior-Then I Shall See

### Prayer

**(PP1)** Today I want to take you on a journey. A journey down a road that some of you may have already travelled and some of you are yet to make. This is a journey of challenges and change.

In Bible times there were a number of people that Jesus had to meet so that they could see their lives as He saw it. Then in response to Jesus' presence they could ask for His help.

**(PP2)** There are a number of people in the Bible who experienced spiritual healing. Here are a few:

- Samaritan Woman at the well—she experienced spiritual and emotional healing
- King David—after his affair with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah, he received healing from the guilt and shame of sin and renewal in his relationship with God
- **(PP3)** Peter—after his betrayal of Jesus, he received the healing from his guilt and remorse
- Naomi—after losing husband and sons, she needed healing from bitterness and anger towards God
- Paul—struck down on the road to Damascus was in need of spiritual healing and a personal relationship with Jesus

**(PP4)** Paul is the one that I want us to focus on today. Turn with me to Acts 9 where our story begins. Let's read a few verses beginning at verses 1–6 (*It would be nice to have a reader for your Bible verses*).

### Acts 9:1-6

*Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*

**(PP-5)** *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.*

*"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (NIV)*

**(PP-6)** What an amazing story. Here is a man who was consumed with passion to work for the Lord (or so he thought). He believed with all his heart that he was God's arm of justice to destroy the new believers. Why? Because they were going against all the traditions and laws he held dear. Paul was a Jew of all Jews. Remember what he said about himself (*Reader – Phil 3:4-6*)

### Philippians 3:4-6

*...though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. (NIV)*

So what happened next? What is the rest of the story?

What really happened to Saul? I mean...

- He was religious. True
- He was zealous. True
- He was committed to the task. True
- He believed in what he was doing. True

Paul gave up everything to pursue his goal. He was obsessed with putting an end to Christianity and to all Christians.

When Jesus stopped him on the road to Damascus Paul was affected both physically and spiritually. He lost his sight, but he was spiritually blind before he was physically blind. God had to find some way to stop him, set him straight, and show him the right path. Paul needed healing—spiritual healing so He could see, truly see.

**(PP-7)** What happened?

1. God entered Paul's life in an unforgettable way—vs 3
2. Paul experienced a time of disability— vs 8
3. He began to see himself as he was – as God saw him – vs 9
4. Then God healed him – vss 17-18

Why would God go to so much trouble to save one man? After all, who was Saul? He was a vicious man, the Hitler of his day. A man filled with hate. Yet when God looked at Saul, He saw His child. A child who had gone astray and who needed to find his way back to God. So, God stopped him and then sent someone to help him.

**(PP-8) Acts 9:15**

*But the Lord said to him (Ananias), 'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.'* (NKJV)

God did not just see a man bent on destruction. God did not see a worthless creature. He looked at Paul and saw a “chosen vessel.” Wow! That's amazing. God saw potential. God saw possibility.

This is a lesson for us today. What do we see when we look at others? It never ceases to amaze me how quick we are to judge each other based on what we see. How quickly we forget the life-changing power of God. We sometimes forget that we too are human and have done things in our lives we regret. But God never forgets who we are—His child.

**(PP-9)** God called Paul “a chosen vessel” Act 9:15. Does this text sound familiar to you?

**(PP-10)** Turn with me to 1 Peter 2:9. Let's read together "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." Here is our purpose in life.

God calls each of us "chosen." We are precious in His eyes. But are we precious in our own eyes?

God uses many ways to bring us from spiritual sickness to spiritual health. One of these ways we find in the life of Paul. God afflicted Paul for three days with blindness. Why? God wanted Paul's attention. His undivided attention. And He got it.

So what about you and me? What has God allowed in our lives, or what will He allow in our lives, to get our undivided attention? You know I have discovered that some of us have "harder heads" than others.

So what is God using, or what has He used, to save your life. God will do no less for us than He did for Saul. He wants to save our lives more than anything else in this world. But He has to get our attention. Sometimes we too have to experience a time of "disability." That "disability" can be physical, emotional or spiritual. It could be a time of joblessness, loneliness, a health problem, a besetting sin that seems to control our lives, it can be people who fail us and cause us much emotional distress. Whatever it takes, that's what our God will do. Your salvation, my salvation is the most important thing to Him.

**(PP-11)** As with Paul sometimes God will:

- Step into our life
- Sometimes we will experience a time of "disability."
- Help us see ourselves as He sees us
- Heal us—spiritually and physically if He thinks that's best

What can we do? How do we deal with a time of "disability?" A typical reaction is to hide from God. Sometimes to run as far as we can from the problem even if that means relocating to another place. Some of us will retreat into ourselves. We'll put on the smile and pretend we are fine. We build walls around our lives, shut people out and pretend that we are fine, but the truth is that we are dying inside. **(PP-12)** If we are to be victorious, we must learn three important things:

1. Don't run
2. Don't hide
3. Don't keep it inside

You see, when we run from God and others, we are running from people who can help us and we are only hurting ourselves. When we suffer in silence and keep all the pain and anguish inside, we become vulnerable to Satan's attack. He has isolated us from all who can help us. And then he moves in to steal our salvation.

But God lovingly smiles at us. He smiles because He knows that it's only when our lives are shattered that we look to Him, and then He can put the pieces back together again. God does not leave us at the bottom of the heap. He doesn't allow our lives to be shattered without stepping in to put the pieces together.

**(PP-13)** The Psalmist says it well –

**Psalm 31:6-8**

*But I trust in God.  
I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy,  
For You have considered my trouble  
You have known my soul in adversity.  
You have not shut me up in the hand of my enemy,  
But have set my feet in a wide place. (NKJV)*

**(PP-14)** So what must we do?

**Psalm 91:1**

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. (NIV)*

God wants to stay in a relationship with us. He knows our only hope of salvation is for us to connect to Him and stay connected.

We don't keep ourselves in God—He does that. 1 Peter 1:5 KJV reminds us that “we are kept by the power of God.”

God reaches down and pulls us up, out of the mud and mire, and He sets our feet on solid ground, Christ Jesus. He heals us.

The end result is that we can see. Paul waited three days. For some it may take months or years, but God will stay with us as we work through our time of blindness. And in the end, as we surrender to Him, He will show us our true selves, He will heal us. He will set our feet on solid ground and cover us under the shadow of His wing.

**(PP -15)** So what are you waiting for? For a personal encounter with God? We have learned through life's many challenge that going it alone is too hard. The hymn reminds us,

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a fortaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.” SDA Hymnal #462

**(PP-16)** God gives us the assurance that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He reassures us that we are not facing life alone. He assures us that with Him we can do all things (Philippians 4:13). He assures us that He will do whatever it takes to save us because we are precious to Him.

He gives us the promise of heaven to come (John 14:1-3), and He reassures us that if we allow Him He will save us.

**John 14:1-3**

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (NIV)*

Appeal:

Today our appeal is simple. Do you want to see Jesus? Do you want to see your life as He sees it? If so then join me at the altar as we present our lives to Him. That's all we have to give, and that's all He will receive from us. Do you love Jesus? He loves you? He loves you so much that He died for you. There is no greater sacrifice. So come to Jesus today, because when you see Jesus, then and only then, will you see.

## **Friday Evening or Sabbath Afternoon Program Suggestions**

For your Friday evening or Sabbath afternoon program we are making the following suggestions:

1. Show the “Women of Distinguished Service” PowerPoint and honor some women from your own church or field.
2. Highlight women of the Bible who are women of distinguished service, women such as
  - Queen Esther – who put the needs of her people before her own needs.
  - Deborah the Prophetess – God’s voice in a time of chaos and conflict in Israel
  - Mary mother of Jesus – In spite of her youth, God called her for the most important task a woman would do for God
  - Miriam - an interesting women who, in spite of her human weakness, was used by God
  - Lydia Seller of Purple - maybe one of the first women to lead out in a Bible class
  - Dorcas – a woman whose greatest desire was to serve and help others

You can add to these names or substitute others of your choosing. Of course there are many ways you can present these names, but we encourage to *include young women* in all you do.

### *Optional Idea*

Have you ever wondered what your sisters are doing in other parts of the world? How are they coping with the challenges of life? Are they active in Women’s Ministries? How active? What do they have to teach us?

We have included in this packet a PowerPoint that you can use to show our sisters in every division of the world church. We know you will learn much and enjoy the various pictures and stories.

## Women's Scripture Chorus

- Sing Women:** Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. (Proverbs 4:23)
- Married Women:** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Young Women:** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God[a]; trust also in me. (John 14:1)
- Adult Women:** Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? (Ezekiel 18:31)
- Mothers:** For he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you. (Proverbs 23:7)
- Single Women:** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)
- Married Women:** You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matthew 12:34)
- Young Women:** All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. (Acts 4:32)
- Adult Women:** So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"
- I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. (1 Kings 3:9 & 12)
- Mothers:** In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered. (2 Chronicles 31:21)
- All Women:** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

## Women of Distinguished Service:

### Adventist Women Pioneers

(Note to Presenter: Instead of presenting this as a lecture, try giving out the stories of individual women to seminar participants. Call on them one at a time to read or tell the story of that woman's contribution to our church.)

#### 1. 1844 - 1900

**a. Ellen G. White.** One morning in December 1844, at a time when many Millerites were wavering in their faith and others were disavowing their recent experience, Ellen Harmon joined four other women in family worship at the home of a close friend, Mrs. Haines, in Portland, Maine. While the group was praying, she experienced her first vision, in which she witnessed a representation of the travels of the Adventist people to the City of God. She was only 17 years old at the time. When she related this vision to the Adventist group in Portland, they accepted it as light from God. Soon after that she received a further vision asking her to share her light with the Adventist people. This she did reluctantly; thus began the work of "The Messenger of the Lord" as she called herself.

She married James White on August 30, 1846. Together they were cofounders of the Adventist Church. Ellen G. White is known as a writer, lecturer, and counselor to the church, who possessed what SDA's have accepted as the prophetic gift described in the Bible. She was not ordained by the laying on of hands. Her name appeared, however, in the ministerial lists of such official publications as the *Yearbook*. She did not hold office in either the local church or in any conference, including the General Conference. She did attend the sessions however as a delegate. After the death of her husband in 1881, she was paid a salary equal to that of an officer of the General Conference. She was never a member of any church committees or boards.

At the time of her death, her literary productions consisted of more than 100,000 pages: 24 books in current circulation, two book manuscripts ready for publication, 5,000 periodical articles in journals of the church, and 200 or more tracts and pamphlets. In addition, there were thousands of pages of letters and journal entries. (*SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2, pp. 873-881.)

**b. Minerva Jane Chapman.** Though her name is almost forgotten today, Minerva Jane Chapman (1829-1923), sister of Elder J. N. Loughborough, was well known in Adventist ranks during her lifetime. In 1877 she was elected treasurer of the General Conference. At the same time she was editor of the *Youth's Instructor*, secretary of the Publishing Association, and treasurer of the Tract and Missionary Society! She served nine years as editor of the *Youth's Instructor*. Elder and Mrs. Chapman moved to Battle creek in 1866, not long after the General Conference was organized. She set type by hand for a while but rapidly advanced step by step to become the treasurer of the Review and Herald, and then to the responsibilities already mentioned. (*Moving Out*, C. Mervyn Maxwell, p. 105)

**c. Maria L. Huntley.** Maria Huntley was born into one of the first Adventist families to keep the Sabbath, in Washington, New Hampshire. In time she became secretary of the Vigilant

Missionary Society, a group of energetic, dedicated, missionary-minded ladies in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. When their society expanded into the General Tract and Missionary Society for the whole church in 1874, she became its secretary and continued to hold this position as long as she lived—adding first one, then another, then a third, and finally eleven assistant corresponding secretaries to help her.

Her society was the forerunner of the Personal Ministries and the Publishing Departments. During the 1888 General Conference in Minneapolis she was asked to address the entire assembly on lay activities. She insisted that “many would gladly work if they knew how,” and begged the ministers to develop effective plans for training laypeople. She died while organizing soul-winning activities in Chicago. (*Moving Out*, C. Mervyn Maxwell, p. 105).

**d. Maud Sisley Boyd.** In 1866, 15-year-old Maud Sisley came to Battle Creek and got a job at the Review and Herald. Her father had died some years before while the family was still in England. An older brother was the first to leave for America. When the rest followed, they found him keeping Saturday for the Sabbath—and joined him in doing the same.

Maud was one of the first Adventists to pay a full tithe. She became a kind of student missionary, taking a six-month vacation without pay to do self-supporting work in Ohio. In 1877 she was sent to Switzerland, the first single Adventist woman to serve as an overseas missionary. Soon she found herself setting type in Italian, even though she didn’t know the language. In 1879 J. N. Loughborough called her to assist in Southampton, England, as Bible instructor. Later she returned to America, married C. L. Boyd, president of the Nebraska Conference, and accompanied him to South Africa as part of the first group of Adventist missionaries to that continent. After her husband’s death she went to Australia where she was a teacher at Avondale for nine years and later a Bible instructor. She returned to the USA to serve as a Bible instructor at Loma Linda and Glendale sanitariums for 17 years. (*Moving Out*, C. Mervyn Maxwell, pp. 105, 106; SDA Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, pp. 225, 226.)

**e. Katherine (Kate) Lindsay.** She was a physician and founder of the first SDA nurse’s training school. After receiving some training in nursing and attending college for six years, she entered the University of Michigan Medical College in 1870. In 1875 she was graduated at the head of her class, with the first group of women to receive the college’s degree.

Joining the staff of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, “Dr. Kate” vigorously set about establishing there the first SDA School of Nursing. Through the introduction of thorough classwork, she became known as a foremost teacher of student nurses.

In 1895 she went to South Africa. She worked in Claremont Sanitarium at Cape Town, became a leading consultant, and traveled under most difficult conditions to mission stations in the interior. En route to the United States, she traveled extensively in Europe, and in 1900 began 20 years as an active member of the medical staff and faculty of the Colorado Sanitarium in Boulder, devoting special interest to the nursing school. (*SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2, p. 928).

**f. Georgia Anna Burrus Burgess.** Georgia Burrus volunteered for service as a single woman missionary and became one of the first SDA workers in India. Just before she landed, a terrible

loneliness struck her. At the depth of her homesickness, she dropped her watch on the deck and it stopped running. She had lost her last friend! She thought forlornly that if only she could hear it tick again, she could carry on and be a missionary! Kneeling in her stateroom, she begged God to pity her and make the watch run again. Fearfully, yet trustingly she picked up her timepiece and held it to her ear. It ticked!

And it never stopped. She had no more troubles with it. She went right on into India, her homesickness entirely removed. When she arrived in Calcutta in 1895, she began working as a self-supporting missionary among the secluded women of the country, while studying Bengali. In 1896, with Mae Taylor, she opened a girls' school in Calcutta.

In 1903 she married Luther J. Burgess, another missionary, and together they spent 32 years pioneering among the Hindi, Urdu, and Khasi-speaking people of India. On furlough to America taken so that Elder Burgess could receive medical treatment, they found that the General Conference had no money to send them back. Mrs. Burgess went out on the streets and sold 20,000 copies of "Bible Training School" at ten cents apiece to buy their tickets herself. (*Moving Out*, C. Mervyn Maxwell, p. 108; *SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 262).

**g. Helen Rankin Druillard.** Helen Druillard is remembered as the founder of Riverside Sanitarium, and cofounder of Madison College, and as a financier. A graduate of Wisconsin State Normal College, she superintended Boulder, Colorado, and Furnas County, Nebraska, public schools. Later she worked at Battle Creek Sanitarium. She married Alma Druillard, a wealthy businessman. In 1886 she served as Tract Society secretary in the Nebraska Conference and in 1888 as the treasurer of the Nebraska Conference.

In 1889, she and her husband went to South Africa. While there she was treasurer and auditor of the conference and secretary of the Tract Society. She spent her spare time as a nurse in a small sanitarium opened by the Wesssels family. She was also secretary of the South African Women's Christian Temperance Union. Upon return to the United States in 1896, she served as matron and accountant for the Boulder Sanitarium, while her husband was the treasurer. Later she served as treasurer of Emmanuel Missionary College until 1903.

In 1904, at the age of 60, she became one of the founders of Madison College along with Percy T. Magan. She lent money for the purchase of the land, and for 20 years afterward was the institution's treasurer and fiscal adviser. The story of how she got involved is an interesting one.

When Ellen White saw the property, she was convinced it was the spot for a new school. She told Sutherland and Magan to raise money and buy the land. Sutherland went to Berrien Springs to ask his aunt, Mrs. Druillard, to help. When she heard about it, she told him the project was foolish. When he turned to leave, she asked, "Where are you going?"

"To find someone else who will help us. I am going to obey the Lord, come what may."

Soon Mrs. Druillard stood with Mrs. White on the property in Tennessee. Mrs. White said to her, "Nell, you think you are just about old enough to retire. If you will come and cast in your lot with this work, if you will look after these boys (Sutherland and Magan, young men in their

thirties) and guide them, and support them in what the Lord wants them to do, then the Lord will renew your youth, and you will do more in the future than you have ever done in the past.”

Mrs. Druillard was the organizer of the Madison Sanitarium and its School of Practical Nursing, in which she was the first instructor. Later she established Riverside Sanitarium and School of Nursing and devoted more than 10 years of her life to its development (*SDA Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, p. 478; Moving Out, C. Mervyn Maxwell, pp. 106, 107.*)

**h. Annie Rebekah Smith.** In 1851 the mother of Annie R. Smith urged her to attend meetings in her town presented by Joseph Bates. Annie decided to go just to please her mother. The night before the meetings she had a dream in which she entered a meeting hall and sat down in the back because she was late. A man she had never seen before stood to preach. He pointed to a chart and spoke on Daniel 8:14, “*Unto two thousand three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*” The next day she left early to be on time for the meeting, but for some reason was delayed and arrived just as the minister arose to speak. She took a seat near the door and was amazed as she realized that it was the man she had seen in her dream. He had announced one topic, but at the last minute had changed it and pointed to a chart and explained Daniel 8:14.

That night she believed that what Elder Bates spoke of was truth, and she determined to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She worked for a few years for James White in Rochester, New York, editing for the *Review and Herald*. She read proof, edited copy, and took charge in his absence. She died in 1855 at the age of 26 from tuberculosis. During her short life, she wrote many poems, and ten of her hymns appear in the *Church Hymnal*. Three have been included in the *SDA Hymnal*: “How Far from Home?”, “*I Saw One Weary*” and “*Long Upon the Mountains.*” Her brother, Uriah Smith, later became the editor of the *Review and Herald*.

**i. Adelia Patten Van Horn.** For some time she assisted Ellen White in the preparation of materials for publication. From 1864 to 1867 she was the editor of the *Youth’s Instructor*. She was treasurer of the General Conference from 1871 to 1873, the first woman to hold that position. She was adept at speaking as well as writing. She worked with her husband to establish a church in Walla Walla, Washington, as well as in Oregon. (*SDA Encyclopedia, vol. 2, p. 828.*)

## **2. 1901 - 1950**

**a. L. Flora Plummer.** Lorena Florence Fait Plummer was director of the General Conference Sabbath School Department for 23 years, from 1913 to 1936.

She and her husband Frank were teachers in Iowa public schools when, in 1886, she accepted the SDA faith. Shortly afterward she joined the Sabbath School Department of the Iowa Conference. She advanced to conference secretary and served as acting president in 1900. She received her ministerial license in 1893.

In 1901, the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference was organized, and she was appointed corresponding secretary. She worked from Minneapolis until 1905 when she moved to the denominational headquarters. She was the author of *The Soul Winning Sabbath School*, *The Spirit of the Teacher*, and *The Soul Winning Teacher*. She was also editor of *The Sabbath School Worker* from 1904 until 1936.

**b. Gertrude Brown.** Born in 1879 in Essex, England, Gertrude Brown is known as a social worker, physician, and benefactor. Baptized in 1893, she went to the SDA sanitarium in Basel, Switzerland, for her nursing diploma. While working in the SDA hospital in Ireland, she met and married Edward Brown, a nurse. She became a social worker for London County Council in Hoxton, where she served before being invited to join the staff of the Battle Creek Sanitarium. There she worked as matron over 2,000 patients.

Returning to Britain, she qualified as an M.D. in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Browns settled in Scotland and founded Crieff Nursing Home. After the death of her husband she turned the home over to the church. She is known as a pioneer of the Adventist health message in the British Isles. (*SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 253.)

**c. Lora E. Clement.** Lora E. Clement joined the *Youth's Instructor* staff under Fannie Dickerson Chase, and became associate editor in 1918. In 1923 she became editor and held that position for the next 29 years. For many years her "Let's Talk It Over" column was a notable feature of the magazine. From 1952 to 1958 she was librarian at the Review and Herald Publishing Association. (*SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 378).

**d. Eva Dykes.** Eva Dykes was the first Black woman to receive a doctorate in the United States. In 1921 she received her Ph.D. from Radcliffe, specializing in English, Latin, German, and Greek language studies. She taught at Walden and Howard universities before joining Oakwood College in 1944 as chair of the English and Humanities departments. She was an educator and author all her life and was active in the movement leading to the formation of regional conferences. She received the Certificate of Merit from the General Conference Department of Education in 1973. She also received the citation of excellence for her contribution to SDA education. She served as a notable educator for more than 50 years. (*SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 479).

**e. Anna L. Ingels Hindson.** Anna Hindson was an editor, union youth department secretary, secretary-treasurer of a conference, and a missionary in Australia. Beginning with her work for Pacific Press, she served the Adventist church for more than 50 years. For nine years she was secretary of the California Tract Society and in 1893 went to Australia in a similar capacity. She was secretary of the Australasian Union Conference and later secretary-treasurer of the West Australian Mission. She was editor of the *Australasian Record* for 34 years, and for 18 years was editor of *Missionary Leader*. She was the leader of the union conferences Young People's Department for 8 years. She was also secretary of the Australasian Union Sabbath School Department 30 years. (*SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 695).

**f. Louise Kleuser.** She served as a Bible worker, pastor of several churches, evangelist, editor, and seminary professor. She was the first woman to complete the SDA Medical Cadet

Corps training and became a second lieutenant in that organization. She was associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association for 16 years. She wrote *The Bible Instructor* to help teach the art of personal soul winning.

**g. Anna Knight.** Anna served in India and the United States as an educator, nurse, and conference and union departmental secretary. She was the first African-American woman missionary.

As a child she played with White neighbor children, and by listening to them read and spell, she taught herself these basic skills. She practiced her writing by scratching the earth with a stick. By her teens she had completed the common branches of learning taught in the country schools of the time though she had never been inside a schoolhouse.

After writing to a New England newspaper requesting that reading materials be sent to her, she received *Signs of the Times* from an SDA. This contact led her to enroll in Mt. Vernon Academy in 1894. In 1898 she graduated from Battle Creek College as a missionary nurse and began to operate a self-supporting school in Jasper County, Mississippi for Black children.

She attended the General Conference session as a delegate and became inspired by foreign missions.

In 1901 she went to India where she served for 6 years. There she colporteured, taught school, nursed, and mingled with wealthy and poor alike all over the northern and eastern parts of the country. Once weak from hunger after 36 hours without food or water while traveling by train, she looked behind her in her compartment and was astonished to see on the seat a plate of bread and a cup of warm drink. As she gratefully ate, she expected that at any moment the unusually dressed stranger pacing back and forth on the platform would put his head in at the window and ask for his pay. But when she finished and tried to return the dishes to him, he had disappeared. She experienced many such miracles in her missionary work in India.

Returning to the USA she started the first Colored YWCA in Atlanta, Georgia. She began working for the Southeastern Union in Atlanta in 1909. Her work included nursing, teaching, and Bible work. She served as Home Missionary, Missionary Volunteer, Education, and Sabbath School secretaries all at once for the Southeastern and Southern Unions, her only office being her trunk and her handbag. She wrote the book *Mississippi Girl*, her autobiography. She served as president of the National Colored Teachers' Association. She also received the Medallion of Merit Award for extraordinary service to SDA education.

Anna Knight traveled, not counting her time in India, half a million miles, conducted nearly 10,000 meetings and wrote more than 49,000 letters. (*SDA Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 873; *Moving Out*, Mervyn Maxwell, pp. 108, 109).

**h. Ana Stahl.** Ana Stahl was born in Sweden and emigrated to the United States when she was 16 years old. After her marriage to Ferdinand, they accepted the Adventist message and attended school in Madison, Wisconsin, where they both took the nurse's course. After the General Conference of 1909, they went as missionaries to South America. There Ana nursed wealthy

Spanish women as well as destitute Indians of the Amazon and Andes regions. She began church schools among the Indians for both children and adults. She and her husband served as pioneer missionaries in South America for 29 years.

**I. Marinda (Minnie) Day Sype.** Minnie Sype was a pastor, evangelist, licensed minister, administrator, and missionary for 54 years. She began her career as an elementary teacher, but soon discovered the Lord had given her the gift of preaching and evangelism. She often preached while her husband served as a singing evangelist. During one series of meetings, 42 people were baptized. She served as Home Missionary secretary of the Iowa Conference and served as a missionary in the Bahamas. She also worked as circulation manager for Southern Publishing Association. She preached in Iowa, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Florida.

**j. Mary Walsh.** Mary Walsh was an evangelist, preacher, pastor, and Bible worker. Born in England, she went to the USA when she was 22 years old where she read herself into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and became an accomplished speaker, particularly at camp meetings. She received a ministerial license during the 1930's and served as pastor in Hartford, Connecticut. She wrote the book *The Wine of Roman Babylon*. In 1984, when she was 91 years old, she was chosen Woman of the Year by the Association of Adventist Women.

### **3. 1951 - 2000**

**a. Ana Rosa Alvarado** was a pastor, evangelist, educator, and musician in Cuba for 45 years.

**b. Nancy Baasham**, a Thai educator, was the first Family Ministries and Women's Ministries Director in the Asia Pacific Division. (Now the Northern Asia-Pacific and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions.)

**c. Lyn Behrens**, an Australian physician, became the first woman president of Loma Linda University.

**d. Del Delker** is known as contralto soloist for the Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast. She has made more than 70 recordings and 32 solo albums.

**e. Chessie Harris**, an educator and humanitarian, cared for more than 1200 disadvantaged children at the Harris Home.

**f. Jessie Halliwell**, missionary nurse, together with her husband Leo, supplied the only medical care to thousands along the Amazon River in Brazil for 38 years aboard their medical launches.

**g. Betty Holbrook** was chairperson of the first Women's Ministries Advisory and was an associate director of the General Conference Family Ministries department.

**h. Juanita Kretschmar** is known as a humanitarian, prayer warrior, and speaker at camp meetings and Women's retreats. She started the New York City Van Ministry and Good News

Network. In her retirement she pastored churches in the Florida Conference with her husband and began a ministry to tourists on the Florida Keys.

**I. Elsa Luukkanen** is known as a Finnish evangelist and pastor of note.

**j. Margaret Prange** is a German pastor and evangelist and a member of the 1989 Women's Commission.

**k. Leona Running** was a professor of ancient languages at the SDA Theological Seminary for more than 40 years.

**l. Carol Hetzell** was a director of the General Conference Communication Department in the 1950's and 1960's.

**m. Shirley Burton** served as director of the General Conference Communication Department during the 1980's.

**n. Karen Flowers** has been an associate director of Family Ministries Department since the 1980's. She became the chair of the Women's Ministries Advisory after the retirement of Betty Holbrook. She developed the Women's Ministries Mission Statement and Roles and Objectives and introduced the idea of a Women's Ministries Department.

**o. Elizabeth Sterndale** was the first Women's Ministries Director of the North American Division, the first division to have a Women's Ministries Department. She also served as a Field Secretary for the North American Division.

**p. Rose Otis** was elected director of the Office of Women's Ministries in 1990, serving in that capacity for 7 years before she became the first Woman Vice President of the North American Division. Before retiring she also served as Vice President of the Texas Conference.

**q. Dorothy Eaton Watts** served as Director of Women's Ministries for the General Conference for one year in 1997, resigning to join her husband in India where he is division president and she is an associate secretary of the division, the first woman officer for the Southern Asia Division.

**r. Ardis Dick Stenbakken** was elected Associate director of the General Conference Women's Ministries in 1995 and director in 1997, the fourth woman to fill that position, including S.M.I. Henry.

## E. G. White Quotes About Women

“When a great and decisive work is to be done, God chooses men and women to this work, and it will see the loss if the talents of both are not combined.” *Evangelism*, p. 469

“We may do a noble work for God if we will. Woman does not know her power for God...There is a higher purpose for woman, a grander destiny. She should develop and cultivate her powers, for God can employ them in the great work of saving souls from eternal ruin.” *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 642 and *Evangelism*, p. 465.

“There never was a time when more workers were needed than at the present. There are brethren and sisters throughout all our ranks who should discipline themselves to engage in this work, in all our churches something should be done to spread the truth. It is the duty of all to study the various points of our faith.” *Review and Herald*, April 1, 1880.

“If there were twenty women where now there is one, who would make this Holy Mission [one-to-one ministry] their cherished work, we should see many more converted to the truth. The refining, softening influence of Christian women is needed in the great work of preaching the truth.” *Evangelism*, p. 471.

“There certainly should be a larger number of women engaged in the work of ministering to suffering humanity....When believing women shall feel the burden for souls...they will be working as Christ worked. They will consider no sacrifice too great to make to win souls to Christ.” *Evangelism*, p. 465.

“Intelligent Christian women may use their talents to the very highest account... wives and mothers should in no case neglect their husbands and their children, but they can do much without neglecting home duties...” *Welfare Ministry*, p. 164.

## Women's Ministries—How to Be Involved

Women are an influential force in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When women are ministering to, the family, church, and community receive the benefits of their spiritual strength and their ministry.

You are invited to become involved in a number of ways:

- Through prayer and encouragement
- By helping to see that there is an active Women's Ministries program in your church, conference/field, union and division
- By volunteering your talents and leadership abilities
- Through your financial support

Women's Ministries sponsors and develops a number of programs and activities. Some of these are:

### Special Days

- International Women's Day of Prayer (First Sabbath in March)
- Women's Ministries Day (Second Sabbath in June)
- Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day (4<sup>th</sup> Sabbath in August)

### Special Programs

- I Married a Possibility
- Literacy programs
- Prayer and Love Saves
- Global Mission projects
- Area - wide retreats, rallies and congresses
- Prayer groups and prayer chains
- Small group ministries/Bible studies
- Church hospitality
- Mentoring young girls and women

- The Widow's Mite
- Leadership Training

### Six critical issues

There are six critical issues that particularly impact women around the world. These issues are:

1. Illiteracy
2. Abuse
3. Poverty
4. Health risks
5. Work loads
6. Lack of mentoring and leadership training

As Christians, seeking to follow the example of Jesus, we believe that it is important to do what we can to meet the needs of all people, developing trust, and helping them to find the answer to their needs. For this reason, Women's Ministries has chosen to focus much of its attention to these six challenge issues.

Before much can be done to address most of these needs, a person must be able to read. Almost one billion adults cannot read; about three-fourths of these are women. They cannot read the instructions on a medicine bottle, fill out an employment form, or read the directions for a household cleaner. Neither can they read a Sabbath School lesson to a child nor read the Bible. Illiteracy is a severe handicap for many women.

These are certainly challenges for everyone in the church. Women's Ministries invites all to join together to share the Good news of the Gospel!

Although these 6 critical issues affect all members directly or indirectly, they impact women most strongly. For this reason, Women's Ministries encourages all members to find ways they can help address these concerns. To address these needs is to serve as Christ served, loving and valuing humanity.

Adapted from GC Women's Ministries Handbook.